

Nunes chairs National Parks hearing on snowmobile use

Subcommittee Chairman Devin Nunes convened the Subcommittee on National Parks for an oversight hearing on snowmobile use in our national parks.

A number of witnesses testified before the panel on the economic impact of heavily restricting, and even eliminating, snowmobile use in national parks, especially in regard to tourism.

"Our national parks were created for the enjoyment of the citizens of this country who own them," said Rep. Devin Nunes, Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks.

"I am confident that we can find ways to give the public access to public land in a responsible way that protects the parks and preserves the reason for which they were created. As a side benefit, it's clear by the testimony we heard today that recreation on public lands helps support the economy of surrounding communities."

The most notable conflict over snowmobile use in the National Park System has occurred in Yellowstone National Park. A Clinton Administration ban on snowmobile access was overturned by the incoming Bush Administration in 2000. Since then,



National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Devin Nunes speaks with Staff Director Rob Howarth (left) and Ranking Member Donna M. Christensen, Virgin Islands. As the new chairman, Rep. Nunes has held weekly hearings for the subcommittee.

the decision and subsequent National Park Service Management Plans have permitted snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks despite the fact that the Administration's Rule continues to be litigated in two different District Courts.

Local communities that rely significantly on winter snowmobile use have been hard hit by recent rulemakings that have severely limited the number of snowmo-

biles permitted in the national parks.

A sign above Yellowstone National Park prominently displays the intent of the National Park System according to President Teddy Roosevelt himself. It states the park was created and is to be administered for the benefit and enjoyment of the people; that it is the property of Uncle Sam and therefore of us all.

Nunes appointed to NEPA taskforce

Rep. Devin Nunes was appointed by House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo to the Taskforce on Improving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NEPA was signed into law in 1970 to establish a national environmental policy

which directs federal agencies to conduct environmental reviews to consider the potential impacts on the environment when planning projects or issuing permits.

"It's been 35 years since anyone has done a careful review to determine whether this legislation is accom-

plishing its mission," said Rep. Nunes, Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. "I look forward to hearing testimony related to its effect and how it may be improved, if at all."

The NEPA Taskforce will hold hearings and meetings across the country.

Quick Facts

In March, Rep. Nunes wrote to 1,260 constituents in response to their inquiries.

Year to date, Rep. Nunes has responded to 3,337 constituents via the U.S. Mail.

Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has responded to 31,558 constituent letters via the U.S. Mail.